

**The Sad Case of Sidewalk Art Faith**

John 6:41-71

*Types of testing in John 6*

* Test of faith for true disciples to solve impossible problems
* Test of faith for the crowd who want external political solutions to life
* Test of faith for true disciples in crisis
* Test of faith the crowd who argue with the Lord
* Test of faith for those who claim to be disciples superficially

*Superficial faith grumbles over calls for intensified devotion* (vs. 41-51)

**Exodus 16:2, 7**

2And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,

7and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?”

**Numbers 11:1, 4, 10-15**

1And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp.

4Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat! 5We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. 6But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

10Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the Lord blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. 11Moses said to the Lord, “Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? 12Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,’ to the land that you swore to give their fathers? 13Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ 14I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. 15If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.”

* God does not cater to human pride (42-46)

**Matthew 13:53-58**

53And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” 58And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

* God moves us beyond past experiences of growth (47-51)

*Superficial faith argues against ongoing and consistent devotion* (vs. 52-59)

**Exodus 17:1-3**

1All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” 3But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

*Superficial faith becomes easily offended and quickly decommits* (vs. 60-66)

*Superficial faith is liable to become deceitful and betray the truth* (vs. 67-71)

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